

Evacuations begin amid
Egypt travel warnings
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Enjoy Aruba's
57th carnaval

FOTH is back in action!
pg 5

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THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

Monday, January 31, 2011

It was grey skies and sunny smiles for the Parada di Blaas



Carnival season 57 is heating up as one of the first major parades took place in San Nicolas yesterday afternoon.

The Balloon Parade is traditionally for the very young and young at heart, as entire families, from the littlest youngster to enthusiastic parents, wend their way through

the streets of San Nicolas, creatively adorned with-you guessed it-balloons!

They came on bikes, trikes and every form of childish transport, festooned with fantastical, multicolored creations of balloons for a colorful and spirited event, despite the on and off show-

ers. The downpours did not dampen the spirits of these hardcore carnival fanatics or those that lined the streets to watch them pass, as the music of Aruba's favorite carnival bands filled the air.

By Rosalie Klein

(see more photos on Pg 9)

Pick your winner for the Superbowl and help Aruba's handicapped



Friends of the Handicapped and their superbowl lottery boards. (See story inside on Pg. 5)



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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Evacuations begin amid Egypt travel warnings

PARIS, France
(AFP) -

Countries across the globe warned against visiting Egypt and some began evacuating their citizens as bloody anti-government protests raged into a sixth day.

The United States and Iraq said they were starting to organise evacuations of their nationals, while Turkey, India, Greece and Saudi Arabia either planned to or had already sent planes to begin taking out their citizens.

Britain, France, China, Australia and Nordic countries warned their citizens not to travel to the country but had no plans yet for full-scale evacuations.

In a State Department advisory, Washington said it "recommends that US citizens avoid travel to Egypt due to ongoing political and social unrest."

The US embassy in Cairo said it was informing "US citizens in Egypt who wish to de-

part that the department of state is making arrangements to provide transportation to safehaven locations in Europe."

Iraq said it would lay on special flights to evacuate its citizens from Egypt and Turkey said it sent five planes to evacuate its approximately 750 citizens registered in the country.

Saudi Arabia said it organised 33 flights between Saturday and Monday to take its nationals home.

India sent a passenger plane to Cairo to evacuate Indian citizens, as did the small ex-Soviet republic of Azerbaijan, which said one of its embassy staff had been killed from a gunshot wound in the unrest.

Britain was advising its nationals to leave flashpoint Egyptian cities, but tour operators stressed there was no need to pull tourists out of popular Red Sea resorts.

The British Foreign Office advised against all but essen-

tial travel to Cairo, Alexandria, Suez and Luxor.

The Foreign Office said some 30,000 Britons were in the country.

France has also warned against unnecessary travel to Egypt, but foreign ministry spokesman Bernard Valero said Paris was not yet considering evacuating its roughly 10,000 citizens in the country.

In Australia, the Foreign Office upgraded its travel warning from "reconsider your need to travel" to "do not travel", counselling Australians against journeying to Egypt and advising those currently there to get out if possible.

China's embassy in Cairo said on its website that the foreign ministry in Beijing had issued a "red" warning, "requiring all Chinese citizens not to travel to Egypt".

It urged Chinese nationals in Egypt to be careful of their safety and not to go outside unless necessary, adding that 300



Chinese nationals had been stranded due to cancelled flights.

Russia said it had no plans to immediately evacuate its about 40,000 citizens in Egypt.

"There is no reason to evacuate Russian tourists from Egypt for the moment," a spokesman for the country's tourism agency, Oleg Moseyev, told the Ria Novosti

news agency.

"People are continuing to leave for the country's seaside resorts, while signing a note saying they are aware of the situation," he said.

A Belgian tour operator, Jetair, announced it was evacuating all its clients from Egypt but the country's government said it would not organise a full-scale evacuation.

Deadly blast at Venezuela arms depot

CARACAS, Venezuela (AFP) - At least one person was killed and three others injured in northern Venezuela when a series of powerful explosions shook an arms depot, officials said.

The arsenal is located in the city of Maracay, in Aragua state. All residents living within five kilometers (3.1 miles) of the munitions dump, about 10,000 people, were evacuated, state governor Rafael Isea said.

Because the first large blast triggered a chain of explosions, it was several hours before emergency equipment and personnel could reach the site and bring the situation under control.

"Now comes the investigation stage. We cannot conclude anything yet, but all scenarios and theories will be evaluated,"

Venezuelan Vice President Elias Jaua told state television VTV.

Isea verified the fatality.

"Sadly, a woman was exposed to the blast and died," he said.

The governor initially said some 40 people were injured by shrapnel or bullets, officials later said only three people had been admitted to nearby hospitals.

The explosion at state military arms firm CAVIM occurred at about 4:45 am (0915 GMT), and the resulting blaze was visible for several miles. Residents were not allowed to return to their homes until the authorities had completed a search for grenades and other arms and explosives that may have been propelled into the surrounding neighborhoods.



HORDORF, Germany (AFP) - German accident investigators began probing the cause of a head-on crash between a regional passenger train and a freight train that killed 10 people and injured 40. Interior Minister Holger Hovemann warned against jumping to conclusions after the head of the regional government blamed human error as the likely cause of the crash. Wolfgang Boehmer told journalists that the disaster late night was probably caused by one of the trains ignoring a red stop light on the section of single track where the crash occurred at high speed.

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School Promoting Health Gets Kids and Minister to Move



Last Saturday morning's happening at Mont Plasir School was one of physical movement where kids, brought by their parents, gathered for their "sponsorloop" (sponsored walk) to raise funds to repair their school facilities. Mon Plasir intends to become the first school to apply the "Schools Promoting Health" policy of the government.

School principal, Debbie Gietel, concurs with the government's health plan for our schools. Gietel and her school administration met earlier with Minister Visser at which time he presented them with his concept for healthy schools. The government intends to put this concept into law, requiring schools to apply health norms in education during school hours.

In the National Health Plan for 2009 – 2018 mention is made of the "Schools Promoting Health" policy. This is a policy already in place in many PAHO (Pan American Health Organization) member countries with great success. The government's new policy is to create a totally new atmosphere in our schools, one that promotes healthy eating, more gymnastics, and health foods in and around our schools. The policy also entails that there will be specific classes to educate our kids about healthy eating and on how to live a healthy life in general.

The purpose of their "sponsored walk" was to raise funds

The World Health Organization (WHO)

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to repair their gymnasium hall so they can again use their gym hall to do more gym at school. The sponsored event was filled with excitement as parents cheered their kids in the various competitions. Even sponsors participated along with the minister of Public Health, Richard Visser, who joined one of the races and competed with kids of the second grade class. The event, prepared a month ago,

was not only for getting funds from sponsors but also served as a time for bodily exercise.

At Mon Plasir School attention is placed on what kids bring to school to eat. They are constantly alerting the kids on eating healthy. The school refuses to sell soft drinks (pop, cola's, etc) or any other non-healthy foods or snacks. They are a health conscious school.

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Announcement

Everyone that have yet to pick-up their driver's license (there is still about 700 licenses from 2009 to be picked-up) is requested to please do so at the earliest convenience at the office (driver's license-bureau) in the old police-station in Sta.Cruz, or call for more information at 5854710.





Fantasea at the Royal Plaza

Cas Animal cont'd



robin_hood_dogs



A Bee-yootifully dressed dog!



Kiki Arndt, the tireless founder and single volunteer of Cas Animal, is collaborating with Aruba's official carnival administrators, Stichting Arubaanse Carnaval, or SAC, to organize a "Doggy Carnival Parade" to raise funds so she can continue her mission of saving Aruba's stray and abused dogs and cats.

All are invited to participate in the mass doggy walk late Tuesday afternoon, March 1, beginning at 5:00 PM. Participants can register at the point of origin, the parking lot of the former Rio Grande restaurant, on the corner of the Sasaki Highway and the access road to The Mill Resort. Registration begins at 3:30 PM and cost 25 Arubian florins, (\$14.00) which includes eligibility to win some very nice prizes for owners and their canines, in the Best Costume and Queen, Prince and Pancho contests.

The parade will proceed down the Irausquin Boulevard, past all the Palm Beach Resorts, and finish in the courtyard of the Palm Beach Plaza Mall, where the winners of the various contests will be announced. The panel of judges includes President of SAC, Tecla Kelly-Hernandez, one of the vets from Contreras Veterinary Clinic, and a local celebrity. Certain criteria will earn entrants extra points in the final decision:

- 1) Being old, somewhat disabled (missing a limb) or blind will not detract from the possibility of winning. Dogs must be otherwise healthy and obviously well cared for.
- 2) Having a neutered pet will earn additional points.

- 3) Costumes will be judged on standards used for carnival children's parades. Elements of originality, quality of execution and creativity will add or detract points; a complete ensemble of coordinated headwear, footwear and body outfit will be taken into consideration.

- 4) Masters and dogs who wear coordinated costumes will earn extra points.

- 5) In no way can the costume cause the dog any distress. Make up is allowed as long as it does not do the dogs harm or cause discomfort. No jewels can be glued to their bodies, the use of mascara is

discouraged, and their coats should not be painted.

- 6) There will be extra points for roadpieces.

- 7) Final judging will also take into consideration the themes of the costumes; owners are encouraged to tell a story. The more elaborate the costume, the better the chance of winning.

- 8) There are extra points to be earned for entering more than one dog; two males and a female can be entered as a team to win all titles of Queen, Prince & Pancho.

- 9) Friends wishing to group their dogs together as a "carnival group" are encouraged, and will win extra points.

- 10) Extra points will be awarded for dogs that can perform tricks.

- 11) A grand prize, plus first and second runner-up prizes will be awarded.

Dressing your dog in a carnival costume is not required to join the canine march through Palm Beach; the event is to raise awareness about the humane treatment of animals on Aruba and to assist Kiki in caring for the more than 80 dogs and puppies she has rescued and keeps in her home, with an additional 38 cats at the house of a friend. There will be a refreshment station for dogs and masters along the route, which is exactly 2 km, and at the finish.

The Carnival Doggie Parade promises to be a wildly fun event, enjoyable for participants and onlookers. Souvenir tee shirts will be sold, and Pet Palace will maintain a booth of exclusive products for pampered pets.

Since coming to live on Aruba 14 years ago, Kiki has been retrieving dogs and cats off the streets and nursing them back to health while rehabilitating them psychologically from mistreatment. For information or to participate in the March 1 event, call 565-2130 or 742-8732. She hopes kind individuals will consider

adopting one of her charges, and it is not unusual for vacationers to return to their homelands with one of Aruba's very appealing "cunucu dogs." Transporting them to the U.S. or Europe is simple and she will walk you through the process. Donations are also appreciated as it costs an astronomical amount of money to feed all the animals and Kiki maintains a free Animal Ambulance to transport sick or injured dogs to the vet's office when their owners are unable to do so as well as rescuing dogs off the streets. Contributions can be made through CMB Bank account # 25762110 under the name of Cas Animal.

Breakfast

7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

| | |
|--|--|
| EGG DISHES | LOCAL BREAKFAST |
| *2 eggs sunny side up with ham & cheese | *Pan grandi (di rama) or baguette |
| *Scrambled with ham, cheese, onions, green pepper, tomato, mushroom | *KERRIE-KERRIE (FISH) |
| *Plain omelettes with ham, cheese, onion, green pepper, tomato, mushroom | *CONCH |
| All egg dishes are served with a choice of: white or whole wheat baguette or sliced toasted bread. | *FISH EGG |
| | *SHRIMPS |
| | *FISH FILLET |
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FOTH is back in action! Pick your winner for the Superbowl and help Aruba's handicapped

Superbowl Sunday is fast approaching, and this is the last week to purchase a chance to win some big bucks, while supporting the fundraising efforts of the Friends of the Handicapped.

Begun over 20 years ago, a dedicated group of veteran island visitors started a foundation to give back to the island that has provided them with so many wonderful memories over their years. Most spend their winters on Aruba, and dedicate nearly all their time to helping various charities working with the mentally and physically challenged.

Volunteers consist of: Art Stark and his wife Alma, Philip Solomon, Sal and Maryann La Carruba, Pauline Daley, Linda Todman, David and Tana Ulmschneider and Pat and Marsha Finck, who comprise the board, with Arubans Anoushka Maduro of the Casa Del Mar and Marcelino Kock. Volunteers



Little Olivia picking last year's winner.

Jean and Huguette Vatequette of Canada have been essential to their success over the years, as well.

One of their core fundraising efforts is their Superbowl lottery boards paying \$750 for correctly choosing the winning score, and \$250 for a reverse score. \$20 purchases a square, and all proceeds are distributed to various worthy causes. Board President Art Stark reports that sales have been a little slow this year,

and there are still plenty of chances to win big. This is the last week to buy before the game.

FOTH also conducts a number of other events. A very special way to show your Valentine how much you care is to take them to the Sweetheart Dinner Dance, which will be in the Radisson Ballroom on Saturday, February 19. A very popular event for islanders and vacationers to mix and mingle, it includes a one hour cocktail hour prior to a 3-course dinner including unlimited wine, with dancing to a popular local band. This is the evening when they conduct their famous raffle drawing, with \$2000 cash the grand prize, and many other valuable items including fine jewelry. Raffle tickets are on sale for \$100 each, and only 100 tickets are sold. Tickets to the Sweetheart's Dinner Dance can be purchased at the concierge desk in the

Radisson Resort, Casino & Spa and the executive offices of Casa Del Mar.

Another popular event is their fundraising bingo night. This is coming up this Friday, February 4, in the Renaissance Conference Center in Oranjestad. There are door prizes galore and the final grand prize for a full card is a whopping 5,000 Aruban florins, (\$2857.) Prizes start at 250 florins and increase with each game; there will be ten games played. A card costs 20 florins, (\$12.) Tickets sales will be at the door starting at 5:00 PM, the games begin at 8:00 PM, sharp.

FOTH conducts a weekly raffle drawing for a dinner for two kindly donated by The French Steakhouse in the Manchebo Beach Resort. Tickets are only \$10 and the drawing is every Wednesday at 7:30 in the Casa Del Mar lobby.

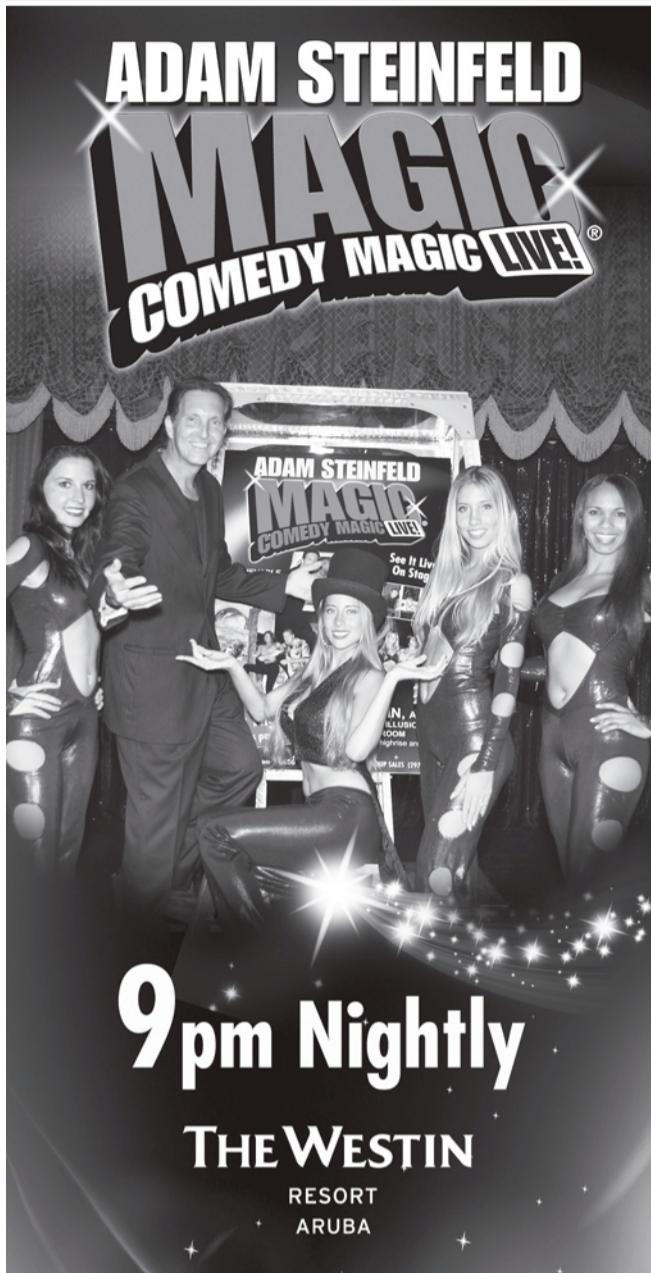
Friends of the Handi-

capped volunteers can be found in the Casa Del Mar lobby every day between the hours of 10:30 and 11:30 a.m., in the afternoons from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. and in the evening from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Several Aruban foundations depend heavily on the support of FOTH to continue helping those in need, and they have donated over one million dollars to assist the handicapped, over the years.

A small investment for those in need accomplishes a great deal as well as offering a special reward, whether you win or not; volunteers are scrupulous in the conduct of the contests, and winners need not be on island to collect.

For more information on upcoming events and purchasing raffle tickets call Art Stark at 567-4102 or 586-3273, Linda Todman at 586-8569 or Dave at 568-8199.

By Rosalie Klein



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-Yolanda Cellucci, Boston, Mass

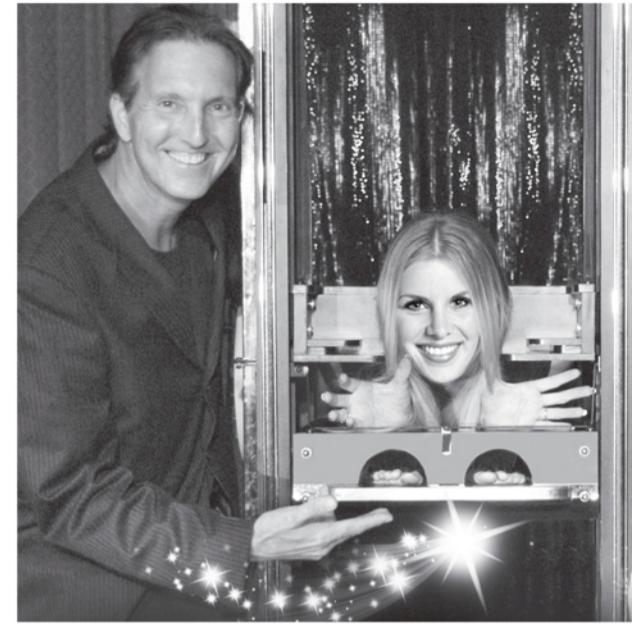
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WHAT: Comedy Magic, Grand Illusion show.

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TICKETS: at the door, Box office, Westin Lobby, front desk or all De Palm Tours concierge desks

GROUP SALES: 561-1090

Sci-Tech

China star beats Oprah with five mln microblog fans

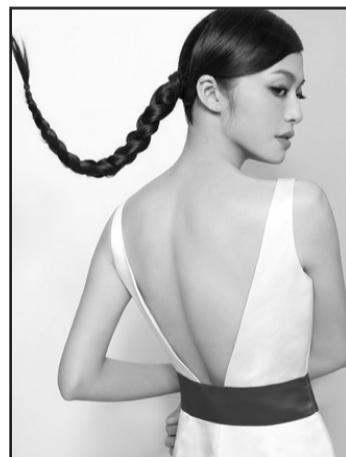
BEIJING (AFP) – Actress Yao Chen this weekend became the first Chinese microblogger with five million followers, even more than US mega-celeb Oprah Winfrey -- underlining the rapid growth of the platform in China.

Yao, a popular television actress, is the most-followed person on the microblog service of Chinese portal Sina, which is far and away China's leader, claiming more than 50 million users.

On Friday the number of people following Yao's musings on life and celebrity ticked past five million, prompting Sina to issue a statement declaring her the "Queen of the microblog".

Earlier in the week, she passed Winfrey's number of Twitter followers. The US talk show diva had 4,953,914 followers as of Friday, according to Twitter.

Winfrey is at 10th place on the list of most-followed people on Twitter, which is officially blocked in China but accessible via proxy server.



Yao, 31, passed five million on Friday afternoon and just three hours later she had added 10,000 more.

Sina's statement attributed Yao's microblog popularity to her candid and self-effacing postings on her life.

China's government blocked Twitter in 2009 after authorities alleged social-networking services were being used to fan ethnic violence in mainly Muslim northwestern China.

China's aggressive censors block a range of high-profile foreign Internet services and

websites including YouTube, Facebook and others.

However, since the blocking of Twitter, several Chinese clones led by Sina have filled the void and drawn an enthusiastic following from China's huge population of web users, the world's largest at 457 million.

Users have seized on micro-blogging as a new avenue for mass expression in a country whose Internet and other media are tightly controlled by a wary Communist Party.

The number of Twitter users is estimated at more than 200 million.

The most-followed person on Twitter is pop icon Lady Gaga with 7.8 million, while US President Barack Obama is back in fourth with 6.4 million.

The rest of the Twitter top ten is populated by US entertainment personalities such as teen pop idol Justin Bieber at number two, singer Britney Spears at number three, and actor Ashton Kutcher at number five.

Alcohol-detecting cars could keep Drunk Drivers off the road



Researchers in Massachusetts are working on creating technology that would keep a car from starting if the driver is drunk.

The Driver Alcohol Detection Systems for Safety would keep impaired drivers

off the road by detecting their blood alcohol content through two potential methods. It could analyze the driver's breath or the driver's skin through touch-based sensors on places like the steering wheel or door locks. If it detected blood alcohol content above the legal limit of .08, the vehicle would simply not start.

The concept is similar to the alcohol ignition interlock systems that are often court-ordered for convicted drunk drivers, however it would be sleeker and less obtrusive.

FastMac ships power socket equipped with USB ports

At the 2010 Macworld Expo, FastMac's U-Socket earned a Best of Show award. A year later, the U-Socket is finally ready to ship to the public and was on display at the 2011 Macworld Expo show floor.

The U-Socket is a power outlet that's outfitted with a pair of USB ports. After it was announced last year, FastMac had to reconfigure the U-Socket so it could be

able to recharge an iPad. Then USB 3.0 started to become fashionable (at least for PCs), and FastMac wanted to make sure their USB ports were 3.0 compliant.

FastMac is offering two models of the U-Socket. Model ACE-7169 (\$26) is a standard wall socket available in white. The model ACE-7702 (\$24) is a Decor-style socket.

Health & Living**Venezuela checks 111 people for cholera after travel**

CARACAS,(AFP)—Venezuelan Health Minister Eugenia Sader said that 111 people went to the hospital to be checked for cholera, an illness they may have picked up at a wedding in the Dominican Republic.

Authorities were still trying to locate the rest of the 452 Venezuelans who traveled to the Dominican Republic for the January 22 wedding.

"Our goal is for the 452 people to receive treatment," Sader said in an interview with Telesur network. If all those people are checked, and if necessary treated, then "we will not have an epidemic in Venezuela," she said.

Up to now 37 of those checked by doctors have confirmed cases of cholera, and 27 have been hospitalized.

Venezuela has had no cholera in a decade, and health officials have emphasized that it was crucial to gain control of the outbreak in the first 24 to 48 hours to prevent the imported bacteria from becoming established here.

Besides the cholera patients in Caracas, another 12 Venezuelans infected with the bacteria were still in the Dominican Republic and four others traveled on to Spain, Mexico and the United States.

Though treatable, the disease can strike swiftly, causing intense diarrhea, vomiting and nausea that leads to severe dehydration and possibly death.

The cholera bacteria was believed to have been transmitted in contaminated food served at the wedding.

At Venezuela's international airport, authorities have been monitoring the entry of passengers, asking them to fill out questionnaires.

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Flu epidemic shuts all Moscow schools

(AFP) — Moscow and two other cities shut their schools for a week on week-end and urged children not to play in groups in a bid to stamp out the worst flu outbreak to hit central Russia in more than a decade.

The Moscow education department's order covered more than 1,500 public and private elementary schools.

Education officials said this

meant that nearly 500,000 children would get an unscheduled week-long vacation in the first such shutdown to strike the Russian capital since 1998.

Moscow's kindergartens would remain open and older children would not be affected. But officials have issued instruction for parents to take extra care with younger children and avoid spending too

much time with them in public places.

The instructions were issued after schools reported empty class rooms in which lessons were being taught to just a handful of kids at a time.

Some education officials complained that Moscow schools were ill equipped to fight such outbreaks and that there was a general shortage of

doctors on staff.

But the city defended itself against such criticism and said outbreaks occasionally happened no matter what.

Officials said that nearly 92,000 Muscovites are currently suffering from the flu or respiratory infections. More than 52,000 of them are children -- a 42 percent spike on previous years' averages.

Officials said some 300 schools had already closed their doors across Russia by week-end evening..

But RIA Novosti said that a two-year-old girl had died from the respiratory disease in the northwestern region of Murmansk and that a Ukrainian national had died in the central Russian city of Volgograd.

Exciting and affordable surfside dining at



The stylish new eatery that has taken over the Surfside area across from the Talk of the Town is still evolving; since opening in November they have been steadily completing renovations, and now the pool bar is open.

What struck us when we first paid a visit to this entrancing beach side locale 2 months ago was the thought "Finally, a place worthy of the Surfside!" Nikky Beach Owner Jan has a very distinct vision of what he wants to offer his patrons; an affordable gourmet



restaurant with a charming, congenial ambiance that will keep them coming back.

We sampled three dishes that left us mighty impressed, beginning with The Nikky Japanese Roll, shrimp stuffed into thin slices of smoked salmon with wasabi aioli. This was followed by the Sesame Maguro Tartar, marinated fresh tuna served with a refreshing seaweed salad and an absolutely yummy concoction of Chef Paul, a firm, soy flavored mousse that perfectly complemented the fish.

Lamb Chops Acropolis, garnished with Tzaiki sauce, provided an innovative twist on this favorite dish. The rest of the menu is just as inventive, and Jan has imported renowned Curaçao chef Maikel de Lier of Papagallo Restaurant to add even more distinctive dishes to an already appealing menu. Very soon, a full sushi menu is to be added to their inventory as well.

What will also leave an impression is the reasonably priced menu and bar; Jan is very sensitive to the needs of his devoted local trade as well as potentially new friends. A fresh grouper platter is only



Nikky Beach Roll



Tuna tartar with seaweed salad

\$17, and you can enjoy a very satisfying and stimulating dining experience for an equally satisfying price.

Nikky Beach is taking advantage of their amazing location by punctuating the weekends with a variety of entertainment, which makes it a great place to watch the sunset or relax with friends until well after dark. Ernesto Farro, well known on Aruba for his mellow guitar, is a regular, and they are experimenting with a number of performers that will make an evening even more enjoyable. You can check out their full menu and upcoming events on their website: www.nikkybeacharuba.com.

They are open seven days a week, serving brunch, lunch and dinner from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Reservations can be made by calling 582-0153 or e-mail reserve@nikkybeacharuba.com.

Aruba's southern shore sports a number of waterside restaurants sought out for their romantic, tropical ambiance. Nikky Beach has all the assets of many these places, a lovely setting and marvelous food. One can also end the evening fully satisfied by an impressive meal that won't give your wallet such a wallop, and it is conveniently located on the eastern end of Oranjestad, so there is no need to travel very far; definitely worth a try.

Learn to do your own make-up this Carnaval



Especially for this Carnaval season renowned artist Bethyamin van Nieuwenhuizen will be visiting Aruba to give her special make-up course, "Glamour and Fantasy."

This course will take place on February 6, at ATIA Conference Room from 9 a.m. till 6 p.m.

Beth has about 15 years already in the field of cosmetics and the art of professional make-up. She has worked with well known brands such as Dior, Revlon, L'Oreal, Fashion Fair, Yves St. Laurent, Guerlain and Sisley.

Under the guidance of Jose Cedeño of Miss Venezuela she expanded her knowledge and went on to

become an expert in the art of Airbrush make-up with the cosmetic line Ketts of New York.

After launching her Facebook page many inquired the possibilities for her to come to Aruba and give her course.

So, to all those interested this is the opportunity to learn to apply your own make-up in a professional way.

The course will include a package of make-up with everything you need to do your own make-up.

For more information e-mail Bethyamin at the.makeup.artist.beth@gmai.l.com or call the local contact at 7439816. One can also visit her page on Facebook: The Makeup Artist Beth.

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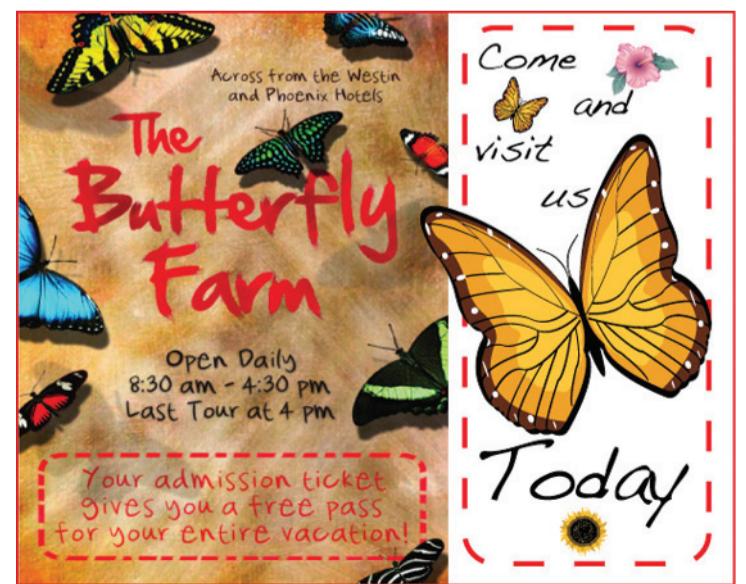
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Main Events 2011

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| MON., JAN 31 7:30 P.M. | PRE-FINALS CALYPSO & ROADMARCH CONTEST 2011 PLACE: JOE LAVEIST SPORTPARK IN SAN NIC. |
| FRI. FEBR 4 7:30 P.M. | ARUBA'S 17TH MRS. CARNAVAL ELECTION PLACE: ARUBA ENTERTAINMENT CENTER |
| SAT. FEBR 5 7:30 P.M. | GRAND FINAL CALYPSO & ROADMARCH CONTEST 2011 PLACE: JOE LAVEIST SPORTPARK IN SAN NIC. |
| SUN. FEB. 6 | SOCAL DANCE CONTEST / CARNAVAL BOAT PARADE |
| SAT FEB 12. 7 P.M. | ARUBA'S 36TH CHILDREN QUEEN AND 48TH YOUTH QUEEN ELECTION PLACE: ARUBA ENTERTAINMENT CENTER |
| SUN. FEB. 13 | YOUTH PARADE - O'STAD FLIP FLOP CARNAVAL BEACH FESTIVAL PLACE: THE VILLAGE |

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Slowly but surely, Bordeaux vineyards go organic



Bottles of Chateau Guiraud wine are seen in this recent photo, taken in Sauternes, south of Bordeaux.

BORDEAUX, France (AFP) – Two historical Bordeaux wine estates have gone green, breaking a long resistance to organic viticulture amongst the region's elite producers.

As in other world-class regions, an organic approach is a weapon in their battle for sustainability.

"Still in 2011, there are people who do not trust in the fact that it is possible to grow organic in Bordeaux," said Jean Michel Comme, manager of the 80-hectare (200-acre) Chateau Pontet Canet in Pauillac.

"As soon as the total estate was organic and biodynamic, we aimed for a certification as a way to prove that we were sincere in our project."

"This is a return to viticulture in the right direction," added Xavier Planty, co-owner and director of the first-growth 100-hectare Chateau Guiraud estate, recently certified organic.

Wine made from organically grown grapes is generally defined as made without using any synthetic fertilizers, weed killers or insecticides.

"But organic viticulture is just one step, and it only has meaning if you work the rest of sustainability," said Planty.

Naysayers have long argued that while Bordeaux's location on the 45th parallel in southwest France creates ideal conditions for Cabernet and Merlot, it's also a happy spot for rot, mildew and voracious insects like grapevine moth that can destroy quality, yields and ultimately profits.

"We have to put an end to this idea that everyone is beautiful and nature is beautiful," said Muriel Barthe, technical director at Bordeaux's wine council. "We have to fight against aggressors. It's a constant battle."

Organic grape growers use copper -- a traditional method -- for fighting mildew, but Barthe nixes that as an option for Bordeaux.

"Copper is a heavy metal and we know it's toxic for the soil," she said. "We are not going to go backwards."

As of 2010, 343 wine estates in the Gironde, where Bordeaux appellations dominate, practice organic viticulture. Some 2,250 hectares are in conversion and 1,836 hectares are already certified. More could be on the horizon.

Last year, Bordeaux's wine council began a pilot sustainability program with 25 winegrowers, cooperatives and negociants with the objective of achieving ISO 14001 certification. One year later, they have 250 new candidates.

"It'll go fast," predicted Barthe.

Frontrunners such as Planty and Comme show evidence that low yields and a holistic approach allows them to avoid using low levels of copper, and eliminate the pesticides that could endanger workers' health.

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Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

Managers of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, report that sales are picking up nicely as the global economy begins to recover and those with a bit of disposal income are looking to invest in a sure thing. Gold Coast Directing Manager Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners are barely using the villas or town homes they purchase, but taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they feel secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and



town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional pools decks, one of which has been open for a year, the other will be ready for the holidays 2010. They expect the clubhouse to be ready for the community with a workout room and spectacular facilities by the end of 2011. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only

quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options for clients, so buyers can individualize their homes. An elegant and chic standard package is available, or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

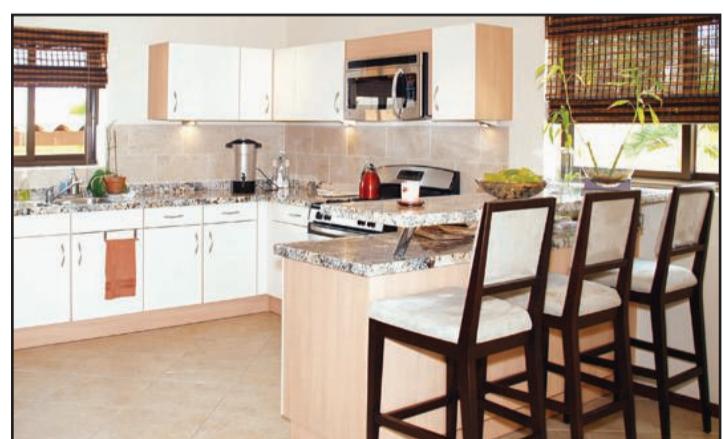
There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast managers have inaugurated a number of in-house services and are now negotiating with Interval International to provide a huge international pool for investors to tap for renters either short or long term. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination will also be available. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, babysitting and catering services are also available for community members as well as airport pick-up and drop-off and pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can all be arranged through their home management department.



are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community; in this area, the value of properties has only increased over time. It is minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy run Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project; the scope and amenities. We talked to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who dreamed of their own home in Aruba will eventually be a community of 260



turn on their investment.

The design of the structures is open, airy and spacious, fully deploying the island environment, with the finest

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.



Souvenir condoms rolled out for UK royal wedding



LONDON (AFP) — While Britain has a public holiday to celebrate Prince William's wedding, one company is taking the party one step further with souvenir condoms that urge lovers to "lie back and

think of England".

Crown Jewels Condoms of Distinction is producing special celebration packs that bear the slogan: "Like a royal wedding, intercourse with a loved one is an unforgettable occasion".

All manner of predictable unofficial souvenirs such as tea towels, chinaware and postcards have been rushed out by manufacturers, with condoms now joining the ranks.

Presented in regal-looking purple and gold, each pack bears a picture of the couple gazing into each other's eyes, saying it contains a "triumvirate of regal prophylactics", which are "lavishly lubed" and "regally ribbed".

"England boasts some of the finest lovemaking in the world, with a tradition of coitus going back generations," lovers are told.

"Combining the strength of a prince with the yielding sensitivity of a princess-to-be, Crown Jewels condoms promise a royal union of pleasure."

The manufacturers stress that they are not supplied to or approved by William, his fiancee or the royal family.

Ingrid Seward, editor of the royal-watching Majesty magazine, told The Sun newspaper: "This is completely tasteless and really rather hurtful."

Buckingham Palace declined to comment.

Sundance film pays tribute to hip hop emperors



L-R: Jarobi White, Q-Tip, Phife Dawg, Ali Shaheed Muhammad and Consequence of A Tribe Called Quest perform in 2007.

PARK CITY, Utah (AFP) — They were the "Rolling Stones of hip hop" in the 1990s, before breaking up in 1998 -- but now the story of "A Tribe Called Quest" is being told, at the Sundance Film festival.

"Beats, Rhymes and Life: The Travels of A Tribe Called Quest," by US actor-turned-filmmaker Michael Rapaport is in competition at the prestigious independent film festival, which closes this week-end.

The band's five albums all went either gold or platinum, and its four members -- all from the Queens borough of New York -- are credited with revolutionizing hip hop.

They notably brought jazz influences into hip hop, and broached social problems in their lyrics.

"I've always been a fan," said Rapaport, a blond-haired American who notably played Denny in Woody Allen's crime

comedy "Small Time Crooks," and has been in the TV series "Prison Break."

The idea came to him in 2006, when he saw them perform -- despite their split after their last album "The Love Movement" in 1998, they have reunited for a number of gigs over the last decade.

"I saw them perform, and I had such a great time, the environment was so happy, I was just: 'I want to make a movie about those guys,'" he told AFP.

After an initial segment which focuses on the music, the documentary explores the reasons for the separation of band members Q-Tip, Phife Dawg, Ali Shaheed Muhammad and Jarobi White.

On more than one occasion the filmmaker found himself in the middle of rows in corridors -- including one memorable one in San Francisco -- which throw a harsh light on the bit-

terness and frustrations of the childhood friends.

The band members weren't always totally comfortable with the camera. "Sometimes they forgot, sometimes they were not happy with it, they were concerned, I don't think they wanted to be over the top, they were protective."

"But ultimately they gave me the trust that I needed to have the material to tell the story that had to be told."

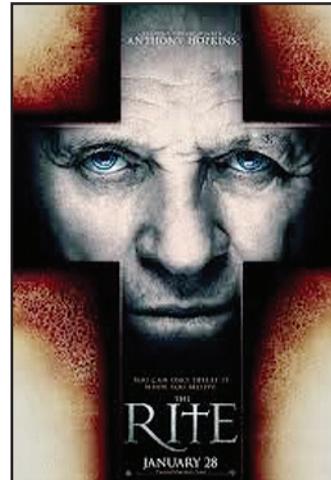
Despite veering towards introspection, the film does not neglect the music, asking musicians including DJ Red Alert, the Jungle Brothers, Busta Rhymes, De La Soul, the Beastie Boys and Kanye West to comment on the band's influence.

"The music was fun, soulful, conscious, there was a message in it. It was never preachy. It has humor and the beat is amazing. The substance and the depth of the music is what makes it unique," said Rapaport.

"A Tribe Called Quest means the same thing to people that like hip hop as the Rolling Stones or the Doors mean to people that like rock and roll. If you grew up with this music, they're as precious as those groups are."

"I think they are so close. They spend so much time together and they are married to A tribe called quest. There's no way to escape that. There's no divorce in it."

Hopkins seeks the 'devil' inside, in new film



part by making him impatient and irascible. I didn't want to play him as a soft kind of one-dimensional man," he told reporters at a Beverly Hills hotel.

His character is initially skeptical about the "truth" sought by California priest Michael Kovac (played by Irish actor Colin O'Donoghue), who eventually has to save Father Lucas in a powerful exorcism scene.

"The power of Michael Kovak is that he has a deep faith. But he believes in the truth. Anything that is extremely fundamental which knows the truth is something to be wary of," says Hopkins.

"That's where the devil resides, I assume."

Brazilian actress Alice Braga, who plays a journalist fascinated by exorcism who accompanies the young priest to Rome, pays tribute to Hopkins.

"He's very generous and kind as a man and an actor. I learned a lot. He's so passionate and committed. He researched so much and he digs into each word he's saying, that it's impossible you don't learn from it," she said.

"Looking at him was an acting class. It was a phenomenal experience. He changes at every take. He never stops searching, never stops trying something new."

Hopkins says he prepared carefully for the exorcism scene. "I spent at least two hours a day, sometimes three hours a day, depending on how much work I had to do, going to the lines systematically, over and over and over."

"When you're an actor, it's quite a smart move to gather as much information as you can, so I read a lot of books, and I'm still reading," he said.

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Paul Casey wins inaugural Volvo Champions title



RAFFA (AFP) - Paul Casey won the European Tour's inaugural Volvo Golf Champions tournament here on Sunday to claim his first title since 2009.

The Englishman won by one stroke from Peter Hanson and Miguel Angel Jimenez after a closing 68 for a 20-under total of 268.

Casey was involved in a

man-to-man fight for the title with Sweden's Hanson on the Royal Golf Club course designed by Europe's winning Ryder Cup captain Colin Montgomerie.

Casey was not considered by Montgomerie for a spot in the Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor last year - a decision which came in for severe criticism at that time.

Although he did not comment when asked whether winning on a Montgomerie-designed course gave him some extra satisfaction, his smile said it all.

However, he did mention that he might ask for the same hotel room - 666 - when he comes back to defend his title next year.

"As for the win, I'm ecstatic with that. I found a very difficult golf course in the end after the wind picked up. It was just Peter and I coming

down the last. He opened the door slightly and I still had a very difficult up and down. I'm just happy I had that opportunity and I took it.

"It really doesn't feel like 20 months (since his last win) because I had the six months of injury, and even after coming back, I was sort of rebuilding.

"I've played some very, very good golf the latter half of last year, and I was disappointed not to win. I just wanted to put that right as soon as possible."

The win was worth 283,330 euros, and he moves up to the third place in the Race to Dubai list. It also secures him a place in the limited-field Volvo World Matchplay in Finca Cortesin in May.

Spain's Miguel Angel Jimenez (67) made a birdie on the final hole to set the clubhouse target of 19-under par, which secured him a share of second place with Hanson (69).

Real title bid in tatters after Osasuna defeat

MADRID (AFP) - Real Madrid's title hopes were left hanging by a thread after Jose Mourinho's side suffered a shock 1-0 defeat at relegation-threatened Osasuna on Sunday to fall seven points behind league leaders Barcelona.

It was Mourinho's second league defeat in charge as Madrid-born striker Javier Camunas scored the decisive goal on 62 minutes to seal a historic win for Osasuna and deal Real's title aspirations a hammer blow.

Even Togalese debutant Emmanuel Adebayor, on loan from Manchester City, could not inspire Real who have now dropped 12 points on the road and have an uphill task to dethrone double champions Barcelona.

Barcelona made it a record-equalling 15th consecutive league win with a 3-0 victory at Hercules on Saturday to match the long-standing record of the great 1960-1961 Real Madrid side.

Real were under pressure to respond and had a star-

studded substitutes' bench with Xabi Alonso, Kaka and new signing Adebayor ready to be called into action.

Adebayor joined Real on loan from Manchester City on Thursday but had to wait for his debut with French forward Karim Benzema retaining his place after scoring the winning goal in his last two matches.

Osasuna drew 0-0 with Real in the corresponding fixture last season and squandered the best chance of the first half on 32 minutes.

A ball from the left picked out the unmarked Walter Pandiani but the Uruguayan glanced his header over the crossbar.

Two minutes later Real had their first real sight on goal with Benzema collecting a Cristiano Ronaldo pass before fizzing in a low shot that goalkeeper Ricardo Lopez did well to save at his near post.

Lopez then denied Ronaldo with his legs in the 43rd minute as the two sides went into the interval at 0-0.

Ronaldo, who has scored 22 out of Real's 48 goals in the league, was Madrid's most dangerous player in the second half, firing one shot just wide and then seeing another drive blocked at the last minute.

However, Osasuna were ambitious going forward and took the lead on 62 minutes after a mix-up between Real defenders Raul Albiol and Ricardo Carvalho.

Clock ticking for supermum Clijsters



Clijsters poses with her trophy won at the Australian Open

MELBOURNE (AFP) - Belgian supermum Kim Clijsters is going from strength to strength in women's tennis, but she may be only 18 months away from retiring for the second time.

Clijsters, 27, claimed her fourth Grand Slam win -- and her third since taking a long break to have a baby -- when she won the Australian Open for the first time, beating Li Na 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the final Saturday.

Known to Australians as "Aussie Kim" since her past engagement to local star Lleyton Hewitt, the affable Clijsters said she may retire for good after the 2012 London Olympics and have a sec-

ond child.

"I do think this is probably my last full season that I'll be playing. I also would like to try and keep going until the Olympics," Clijsters told reporters.

"I've never played the Olympics, which is in a year-and-a-half's time, or a little under a year-and-a-half. And then we'll see after that."

The world number three first started playing professional tennis as a 14-year-old in 1997, and now collected 41 singles titles and 11 doubles crowns.

A world number one in 2003 and the winner of the first of three US Opens in 2005, Clijsters chose to retire at the end of 2008 when she married US basketballer Brian Lynch and gave birth to her daughter, Jada.

But in 2009 she was asked to take part in a tournament alongside other retired players to test the new roof on the Wimbledon centre court, and it was there she realised she hadn't finished with the sport.

Clijsters, who travels with a large entourage including her husband, daughter and a nanny, won five tournaments in 2010, the highlight being her third US Open when she beat Vera Zvonareva in a one-sided final.

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Veteran Park feels like freshman in Japan



TOKYO (AFP) – Former Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Park Chan-Ho said Sunday he has plenty to learn as he prepares to relaunch his career at Japan's Orix Buffaloes.

"It is a big adventure to play baseball in Japan and it is a big chance as well. I'm excited very much," the 37-year-old South Korean veteran told a news conference

in Osaka where the Pacific League club is based.

"After I played against Japan at the World Baseball Classic (WBC), I have become increasingly interested in Japanese baseball," he was quoted as saying by Japanese media.

"I want to learn a lot here," said Park, who in 1994 became the first South Korean

Bernie: Jeter skilled enough to play any position

NEW YORK -- Bernie Williams patrolled the outfield for 16 seasons in the Bronx, a span during which he learned never to doubt Derek Jeter's abilities at anything.

So while the quasi-retired Williams wouldn't rule out the idea of Jeter eventually mov-

ing to center field -- as Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said last week -- he also isn't necessarily holding his breath for it to happen.

"He's a very good athlete," Williams said on Saturday, hosting an event in New Rochelle, N.Y., for Hillside Food Outreach. "I'm not in

player to join the US Major League.

Japan won the inaugural WBC in 2006 when South Korea finished third. They retained the title in 2009 by beating the Koreans in the final.

"I feel great pleasure and a sense of mission at the same time. My goal is to win a match first and foremost. Then I want to set my next goal," he said.

Park has also played for the Texas Rangers, San Diego Padres, New York Mets, Philadelphia Phillies, New York Yankees and Pittsburgh Pirates.

The right-hander hurled his 124th career win last October with the Pirates to become the most successful Asian-born pitcher in US Major League history.

"At the moment, I feel the way as I felt when I moved to the United States at the age of 20. What is different is I have gained experience," he said.

any way saying that he's going to play center field, but I think he probably can play any position that he can get his mind into -- probably not catcher. Probably anything else, he'd be able to do."

Cashman created a stir in responding to a question at a fan event last week in Times Square when he said that Jeter was more likely to move to center field than third base if a position switch is required during his contract, which spans through 2014.

The GM later clarified his remarks, stating that a Jeter position switch is not an issue the Yankees are currently thinking about, but Williams said that Jeter would be receptive if the topic ever needs to come up.

How much for a SB ticket?

Super Bowl 2011 Date, Official Start Time and Commercials were recently released this week.

The two NFL teams who will be fighting for the Super Bowl 2011 trophy are already revealed as Green Bay Packers won the NFC Championship Game against Chicago Bears at a score of 21-14 and Pittsburgh Steelers won the AFC Championship Game against the New York Jets at a score of 24-19.

Having said that, the two teams will face in the upcoming Super Bowl 2011 which will be held on the newly built Dallas Cowboys Sta-

dium in Arlington, North Texas next month on February 6, 2011 which will start at 6:25 pm Eastern Time.

Since the biggest football event is just two weeks from now, Super Bowl 2011 tickets are selling like hotcakes. Ticket prices range from as low as \$1,000+ to as high as \$9,000+ depending on your seat location.

However, NFL said that a much cheaper Super Bowl 2011 tickets can be availed at one-third the price of a regular ticket.

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Djokovic humbles Murray in Open final

MELBOURNE (AFP) - Novak Djokovic claimed his second Grand Slam title at the Australian Open Sunday with a dominant display which shattered Andy Murray's dream of becoming Britain's first male major-winner in 75 years.

The Serbian world number three controlled the final on a warm Melbourne evening, winning 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 for his second Australian title, after also triumphing in 2008.

It was the first major final without Rafael Nadal or Roger Federer for three years, as Djokovic proved superior to the listless fifth seed.

"It's been a fantastic tour-



nament for me and I just take it that way," Djokovic said.

"Rafa (Nadal) and Roger are the two best players in the

world. No question about that. You can't compare my success and Murray's success to their success.

"Certainly, this will give me a lot of motivation and confidence for the rest of this season because to win a Grand Slam at the start of the season is the best start you can ask for."

But the misfiring Murray suffered further heartbreak and is now yet to win a set in three Grand Slam finals.

"You always have to try and find a way to get back in. I thought Novak played unbelievably well tonight," Murray said.

Murray was bidding to become the first British man to win a Grand Slam since Fred Perry in 1936, and the first since Perry to win the Australian Open since 1934.

But he was never in the hunt as his game spluttered in the second set and Djokovic ramped up the pressure to seize the final in 2hr 39 min.

It was Djokovic's second successive Grand Slam final after losing to Nadal in last year's US Open decider.

Symbolically, the last time Djokovic finished runner-up at the 2007 US Open, he also went on to win the title at the Australian Open the following year against Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

Djokovic and Murray are close friends from their junior playing days and it was their first meeting at a Grand Slam with the Serb now leading 5-3 in their matches.

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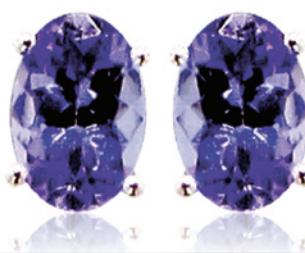
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